3 MONTHS AGO.
SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
THE HYDRA UNDERWATER CITY, ICHOR.
APPEARS TO BE...IT APPEARS TO BE SOME TYPE OF...
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE ATTACKERS ARE INHUMAN...OR NON-HUMAN--ALIEN--IN NATURE. OTHER SOURCES ARE...
...EVACUATION. MOTHERS, REFUSING TO LEAVE, WERE DRAGGED AWAY, STILL SCREAMING FOR THEIR CHILDREN.
INDULGE ME.
THE THREAT IS VALID, BARON STRUCKER.
WE HAVE, AT THIS POINT, BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY COORDINATED ATTACKS ON FOUR CONTINENTS.
THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO INFILTRATE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, THE METAHUMAN COMMUNITY AND OTHER TARGETS WITH FAR-REACHING OR SPECIALIZED INFLUENCE.
YET WE REMAIN UNSCATHED.

YES, SIR.
AS OF YET, WE HAVE UNCOVERED NO TRACE OF THE THREAT FROM WITHIN HYDRA.
IT SEEMS THAT FORTUNE, ONCE AGAIN, FAVORS THE BEAST.
THIS ROOM WAS ONCE CONSIDERED A TEMPLE OF GENETIC PURITY--A HOLY PLACE OF TRUE HUMANITY.
IN HERE, EVERY BEAD OF SWEAT FROM YOUR BROW, EVERY BREATH YOU BREATHE BETRAYS YOU...
STOP THIS CHARADE AND REVEAL YOURSELVES.
IT KNOWS...
NO, IT COULD NOT. TELL US HOW, HUMAN!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. HYDRA IS OURS NOW.
AND IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED.
IT'S INTERESTING HOW PERSONAL IDEOLOGIES CHANGE OVER TIME.
FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN IT WOULD HAVE MADE ME PHYSICALLY ILL TO SHARE THE SAME AIR WITH SOMETHING LIKE YOU--AN ANIMAL APPEARING AS HUMAN. YOUR DESTRUCTION, I'M SORRY TO SAY, WOULD HAVE BEEN A NECESSITY.
THE FÜHRER-- HE WAS AN ENERGETIC TEACHER.
BUT, TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND MY ETHOS HAS EVOLVED IN WHAT IS A MORE TOLERANT, AND ENLIGHTENED VIEW OF GLOBAL SOCIETY. YOU SEE, I NO LONGER NEED TO CLEANSE THE WORLD, I SIMPLY WISH TO RULE IT.
SO UNDERSTAND, WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN IS A PERSONAL INDULGENCE FOR ME-- A FLIGHT OF NOSTALGIC FANCY.
I'M TRYING TO ENJOY LIFE MORE NOW THAT I'M OLDER.
COME FOR ME. I WISH TO FEEL YOUNG AGAIN.

THERE WERE OVER 15,000 LOYAL SERVANTS OF HYDRA LIVING WITHIN THE WALLS OF ICHOR.
THEY WERE MY CHILDREN.
MOST MEN WOULD QUESTION THE DECENCY OF A DECISION LIKE THE ONE I JUST MADE. SOME WOULD BECOME PARALYZED WITH DESPAIR AND REGRET.
REST ASSURED, I AM NOT MOST MEN.
I AM THE SUPREME HYDRA, BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER...
I HAVE SEEN NATIONS FALL, BELIEFS BETRAYED, AND BROTHERHOOD ABANDONED FOR MODERNITY.
DEFEAT ONLY SERVES TO STOKE THE FIRE THAT BURNS WITHIN ME.
MY DESIRE IS ETERNAL.

...ALL OF IT A LIE.
NO, NO, NO... THIS IS...OH, IT'S GOTTA BE BULL!
ALL THE GOOD YOU'VE DONE, ALL THE BAD GUYS YOU'VE PUT AWAY...NICK, YOU'VE SAVED THE WORLD.
THERE'S NO WAY.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE 19, DAISY. IT DON'T GIVE YOU AN EXCUSE FOR BEIN' SIMPLE.
TALK IT THROUGH.
OKAY, WELL, FIRST...I GUESS IT'D BE A PRETTY GOOD WAY TO ELIMINATE THE COMPETITION--
--SIC S.H.I.E.L.D. ON THEM AND WHATNOT. IT COULD HELP MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF BEING KEPT IN CHECK.
MAN, YOU COULD KEEP TABS ON THE ENTIRE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY...
OH, NO... AND EVERY BIT OF INTELLIGENCE YOU GATHERED OVER THE YEARS THEY HAD ACCESS TO.
NOW YOU'RE GETTIN' IT.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A PLAN THAT WOULD TAKE DECADES TO EXECUTE.
THE PATIENCE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...I CAN BARELY WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT...
WHAT MAKES YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT HYDRA DID?
IT'S THE PLAY I WOULDA CALLED.
SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
WE'RE GONNA WAKE UP, OPEN OUR EYES, AND THEN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOIN' ON.
THEN WE'RE GONNA GET EVEN.

ONE MONTH AGO
SOMEWHERE IN NEW ZEALAND.
THE HYDRA MOUNTAIN COMPOUND, GEHENNA.
RECRUITMENT CONTINUES TO GO WELL. WE'RE EXCEEDING EXPECTATION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.
AND THIS IS AN INTERESTING POINT, RETENTION NUMBERS ARE HIGHER BY A FACTOR OF FOUR AMONG CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.
IT SEEMS OUR INDOCTRINATION TECHNIQUES ARE UNIQUELY SUITED FOR APPLICANTS WHO SIGN UP WITH SOMETHING OF A DO-GOODER MENTALITY.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAS A NINETY PERCENT RETENTION RATE. THE PEACE CORPS IS AT EIGHTY-TWO PERCENT. GREENPEACE IS, WELL, IT'S THROUGH THE ROOF...
THEY'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD, SIR.
NUMBERS.
YES...YES, HERE IT IS--WE CURRENTLY HAVE SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND TWELVE FULLY TRAINED AGENTS READY FOR ACTIVE DUTY.
AND ASSETS?
WITH GLOBAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DISCREETLY RECOVER AROUND NINE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS FROM VARIOUS HOLDINGS.
AND WHILE WE LOST SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR PREVIOUS HEADQUARTERS, WE'VE SLOWLY BEEN SIPHONING OFF DECOMMISSIONED S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSETS TO MEET SHORT-TERM DEMAND.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR INFORMATION NETWORK REMAINED WHOLLY INTACT DUE TO OUR REDUNDANT, PARALLEL PROTOCOLS...
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY WE SUFFERED A BREACH IN SECURITY RECENTLY.
DATA CORE COMPROMISED
THERE WAS A PROBLEM IN CHICAGO, SIR.

HOLAS
URY
WELL, SOMEONE FELL DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE...
OH, NICHOLAS. WE'VE BEEN DANCING FOR YEARS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE HEARING THE MUSIC.
MS. FISCHER?
SIR?
NO NEED TO BE SUBTLE NOW. HAVE THE GRAND CHAMBER REFURBISHED, PREPARE FOR HONORED GUESTS...
I SEEM TO HAVE SUDDENLY DEVELOPED AN APPETITE FOR SOMETHING A BIT MORE AMBITIOUS.

NOW.
CHI-CHINESE RESTAURANT.
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.
HERE YOU GO, SIR. ANYTHING ELSE?
YEAH...YEAH, SURE. YOU KNOW WHAT? A ROUND ON ME--FREE DRINKS FOR THE TEAM.
WHO'S IN?

YOU'RE GOING TO BE A HERO, SEBASTIAN. I SWEAR TO GOD, A REAL, MAKING-THE-WORLD-A-BETTER-PLACE, SAVING-PEOPLE'S-LIVES HERO.
YOU'LL BE THE BEST OF US.
I'M SORRY, YO-YO, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT, BADLY.
BUT DON'T WORRY...
...HE'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU. AND IN DOING SO, JERRY'S GOING TO FIND OUT WHO HE REALLY IS.
IT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO YOUR JOB, DAISY, AND DO IT WELL.
AND?
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THIS BEFORE...YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE OF THE GREATS. MAYBE.
BUT IT'S GOING TO SUCK GETTING THERE.
I LOVE IT...
MESS WITH THEIR HEADS...DO ME, KID.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, J.T.
I'M SORRY.
WELL...
...HERE'S TO BURNIN' OUT BEIN' BETTER THAN FADING AWAY.